**GENDER-SENSITIVE ENTERPRISE SELECTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION (Busia County)**

We are undertaking a consultative process to better understand how agricultural enterprise selection at your county incorporate gender considerations, climate smart practices and support for women led enterprises. This interview aims to identify, how enterprise selection has been conducted at the county level. how gender norms shape gender roles across the various agricultural value chain, critical barriers, opportunities, and policy gaps that affect the inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized groups.

This exercise is intended to support counties in documenting enterprise performance, community preferences, and contributions to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) strategies. Your insights will help us navigate these specific objectives, inform investment priorities, and shape inclusive policies. We welcome your guidance and local context as we align our efforts with the evolving needs of your county. Your responses will be used solely to inform evidence-based programming and policy recommendations.

**Enterprise Selection and Community Involvement**

1. How was the selection of agricultural and livestock enterprises conducted in your county, and what criteria guided this process?

Criteria:

1. Climatic conditions (e.g. fish close to the lake, aquaparks, fish cages), environmental stability of the area
2. Cultural and religious beliefs/ backgrounds
3. Public participation (CDP, farmers asked questions, )
4. Market survey (guiding questions, consumption, )
5. Supply and market demand
6. Resource availability (land etc)
7. Knowledge and skills related to setting up a particular enterprise
8. Enterprise feasibility

How:

1. Community participation (barazas, questions, ranking of the enterprises)
2. Political influence (e.g. introduction of dairy cattle which end up failing due to lack of resources to sustain ),
3. National government/regional strategies (BETA)
4. Historical information
5. Stakeholder Imposed value chains (women select the ones they can sustainably manage, sell/ consume)

2. In what ways were community members—including women, youth, and elders—engaged in the enterprise selection process?

1. Youths go for short period maturity enterprises, friendly enterprises, e.g. they may go for value addition, transport, marketing (social media, IT)
2. Formation of common interest groups (CIGs), producer groups, marketing groups, processors, supplier groups,
3. (PRA) Participatory Rural Appraisal

3. What patterns have you observed in enterprise preferences across different community groups (e.g., by gender, age)?

1. Youths go for short period maturity enterprises, friendly enterprises, e.g. they may go for value addition, transport, marketing (social media, IT)
2. Men go for high value capital intensive value chains like dairy/sugarcane/coffee/cotton productions
3. Women do short-term crops/subsistence crops like ground nuts, vegetables, african leafy vegetables, finger millet, orphaned crops (cow peas, green grams, sorghum, sweet potatoes, cassava)
4. people tend to shy away from capital intensive enterprises
5. Geography-lakeside dwellers fish,
6. Traditional value chains are preferred to the conventional ones

**Identification of Agricultural Enterprises**

1. What agricultural enterprises (both livestock and crops) are predominantly led by women, men, youth and elderly in each county?

Women-poultry, ALVs, sweet potatoes, finger millet, cow peas, green grams, sorghum, sweet potatoes, cassava, ground nuts, pigs

Men- dairy/sugarcane/coffee/cotton Tomatoes, Fish farming,

Youth- Kales, tomatoes, poultry, rabbits, regenerative feeds like black soldier flies, azola, pigs

Elderly- Millet, Cotton, Coffee, vegetables,

PWD- enterprises for youth and women as above

2. What traditional and non traditional agricultural enterprises are women currently involved in?

Traditional - g.nuts, cassava, local/indigenous poultry, ALVs,

Non-traditional- soya, kales, exotic poultry breeds, exotic pig breeds, g.nuts (improved varieties)

3. What factors contribute to women’s dominance in these enterprises? (e.g., ease of entry, cultural norms, policy incentives)

1. Low capital required/ease of entry
2. access to resources (land, credit,
3. easy to manage/ non-labor intensive
4. women empowerment to the programs/ access to knowledge and information
5. food and nutrition security
6. market availability and income generating /demand
7. easily processed to other products
8. cultural norms (like poultry for women, sugarcane for men, rabbits for youth, etc), women not allowed to own land so they do short term crops e.g g.nuts, etc

4. What social or institutional barriers have you seen affecting women’s leadership or decision-making in enterprise development?

1. cultural norms/barriers
2. women leadership unrecognized by some institutions e.g. religious institutions,
3. education/level of education/ ignorance/
4. Men chauvinism/ Leadership skewed towards men
5. Poverty
6. women empowerment

**Gender Roles in Agricultural Enterprises( for each of the enterprise selected ask the following questions**

1. What specific tasks/ roles in these enterprises are performed by women, men, youth and elderly or shared?( for each enterprise selected probe for the gender roles across the value chain and reasons why?

Crop Production (Percentages)

Predominantly done by…

Activity Men Women Youth PWD Elderly Remarks

Land preparation 70 10 10 5 5 Labour and capital intensive

Planting 20 50 20 10 Cultural norms

Weeding 30 40 20 5 5 Perceived as less labour intensive

Fertilizer Application 10 30 50 5 5 Perceived as less labour intensive

Pest control 60 5 25 5 5 Risk is high and labour intensive

Harvesting 20 50 20 5 5 cultural norm

Post-Harvest(e.g Storage,, w) 5 80 5 5 5 cultural norm

Transportation 20 10 70 Youths are young and energetic and can operate the vehicles

Value Addition 5 70 20 5 Light task

Sales and Marketing 30 50 10 5 5 women have access to the market, Men control the finances

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Men | Women | Youth | PWD | Elderly | Remarks |
| Land preparation | 70 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | Labour and capital intensive |
| Planting | 20 | 50 | 20 |  | 10 | Cultural norms |
| Weeding | 30 | 40 | 20 | 5 | 5 | Perceived as less labour intensive |
| Fertilizer Application | 10 | 30 | 50 | 5 | 5 | Perceived as less labour intensive |
| Pest control | 60 | 5 | 25 | 5 | 5 | Risk is high and labour intensive |
| Harvesting | 20 | 50 | 20 | 5 | 5 | cultural norm |
| Post-Harvest(e.g Storage,, w) | 5 | 80 | 5 | 5 | 5 | cultural norm |
| Transportation | 20 | 10 | 70 |  |  | Youths are young and energetic and can operate the vehicles |
| Value Addition | 5 | 70 | 20 |  | 5 | Light task |
| Sales and Marketing | 30 | 50 | 10 | 5 | 5 | women have access to the market, Men control the finances |

Livestock (Poultry-improved breeds)

Activity Men Women Youth PWD Elderly Remarks

Structure establishment 80 20 capital intensive/ cultural norms/ men built structures

Breeding 20 20 20 20 20 equal chance for breeding activity

Feeding 10 40 30 10 10 availability of labour from youth & women

Disease control 40 30 20 5 5 labour intensive/ skilled labour

Sales and Marketing 30 40 10 10 10 mostly women are assigned sales of poultry due to their bargaining skills

Value addition 10 50 30 5 5 culturally assigned

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Men | Women | Youth | PWD | Elderly | Remarks |
| Structure establishment | 80 |  | 20 |  |  | capital intensive/ cultural norms/ men built structures |
| Breeding | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | equal chance for breeding activity |
| Feeding | 10 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 10 | availability of labour from youth & women |
| Disease control | 40 | 30 | 20 | 5 | 5 | labour intensive/ skilled labour |
| Sales and Marketing | 30 | 40 | 10 | 10 | 10 | mostly women are assigned sales of poultry due to their bargaining skills |
| Value addition | 10 | 50 | 30 | 5 | 5 | culturally assigned |

2. What barriers ( social cultural economic) prevent women from expanding their roles in these enterprises?

1. inadequate of skills/capacity enhancement (e.g. disease control)
2. land tenure systems (men control land, women can access with restrictions)
3. limited access to finances (credit, )

3. At which process/ value chain for each enterprise do women control decision-making and income and why? (Livestock-poultry)

1. Feeding, value addition, sales & marketing

(they do not control income, men do)

-the remarks column answers the ‘why’ part

**Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

1. How have changing climatic conditions influenced the types of enterprises being prioritized in your county?

· Longer periods of drought and short periods of rain have occassioned adoption of fast maturing crops/livestock value chains

· Increased temperatures have influenced adoption of enterprises that tolerate heat stress

· Increased floods have farmers adoption of perennial crops/fast /early maturing crops/cover crops/fish cages

· Increased humidity has caused use of disease and pest resistant varities/breeds

· Frequent incidences of strong winds have occassioned use of short and stout varieties and use of housed/indoor enterprises/planting of trees to act as wind breaks

· Increased soil erosion –use of soil and water conservation structures/measures

2. What are some examples of new enterprises that have emerged as a direct response to climate challenges, and how are they distributed across different gender or age groups?

· Fish cages/earth ponds for men and youth

· Black soldier fly for the youth

· Groundnut varieties for women

· Dairy goats for men

· Cross dairy cows for men

· Soya SB19 for women

· Gunea fowls

· Solar powered irrigation –farm ponds/water pans for horticultural production

· Improved sweet potato varieties kabode,SPK004,Kenspot, Mugande, Vita

**Access to Resources and Digital Tools**

1. In your experience, how do men and women, youth and elderly differ in accessing critical resources such as

a. land,

· Land is accessed by all gender but control is by men

b. Finance-the overall financial landscape for access including the informal such as community Savings and loans associations) Saccos banks, insurance services

More men access credit because they have collateral , followed by women ,youth and elderly in that order.

c. Access to training and knowledge/extension.

More women than men and youth access agricultural training services.

d. Access to information as market, weather

More youth access market information than men and women.

e. Access to technology eg ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy

More youth access technology than men and women.

2. What challenges do women face in using digital platforms or ICT tools for enterprise development, and how are they navigating these barriers?

· Inadequate digital skills

· Negative attitude

They seek assistance from the ICT skilled people

**Economic Viability & Market analysis**

1. How is the market demand for the product (poultry)

High demand

Most crops have high demand for example groundnuts,cassava,Orange Fleshed sweet potatoes,finger millet,sorghum.

2. What is the competition landscape for this product and any opportunity where women can tap more on through value addition etc.

Poultry and all the enterprises mentioned are highly competitive.There are opportunities for women in processing and making different recipes/products.

3. What are the economic benefits and profitability levels of these enterprises for women?

These have created small/medium scale cottage industries. They have group marketing through aggregation centers

4. How do these enterprises compare to male-dominated ones in terms of income and sustainability?

Male dominated enterprises generate more income but are not sustainable since the incomes are not usually ploughed back. Female dominated ones are more cohesive.

5. What socio-economic benefits (e.g., improved household welfare, community development) do these enterprises bring?

Improved standards of living, employment, enhanced family relationships.Reduced cases of insecurity.

**Replicability & Scalability**

1. What factors contribute to the success of these enterprises?

· Government and stakeholders support

· Favourable climate

· Suitable soils

· Training on the enterprises

· High market demand

2. Can these enterprises be replicated in other counties/regions? What conditions are necessary?

Yes ,so long as the environmental and other conditions are available.

3. How can value chains and market access be improved to enhance their viability?

· Formation /enhancing of existing marketing groups

· Capacity building of existing cooperatives, aggregation centers

· Improved varieties/breeds

**6. Data Availability & Policy Support**

1. What data sources exist to track the success and impact of these women-led enterprises?

Survey reports, Directorate validated reports ,project reports,stakeholder reports.

2. Qualitatively capture the policy frameworks supporting the women -led V.Cs.

· There are currently no policies specific to women led VCs.

3. Map the landscape for women’s collectives or cooperatives that would enhance their collective voices for favourable enabling environment.

· Busia Women Crossborder traders cooperative.

4. Are there any policy gaps that need to be addressed to further support women in these enterprises?

· There is need for Policy to support women access to affordable credit

· Policy to support women in trade

· Subsidy policy specific to women

5. What recommendations can be made to strengthen these enterprises through policy interventions and investments?

· Access to finance-Subsidized loans/grants ,Women specific venture capital funds ,collateral free lending especially in sectors traditionally dominated by men.

· Entrepreneureship education and training in terms of business development and mentorship programs

· Tax incentives (reduced tax rates ,tax breaks,tax specific)

6. From your perspective, what policies are currently enabling or hindering women’s participation in climate-resilient enterprises?

Enabling policies;

· CIDPs-County Intergrated development Plans

Hindering policies;

7. What kinds of support (e.g., financial, technical, policy) would make it easier for women and marginalized groups to thrive in enterprise development?

· Training on enterprise development

· Support to acquire appropriate technology/machines

· Affordable credit

· Friendly technologies for production and processing

· Enabling policies